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COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 3, No. 20 March 11, 1967

LBJ Proposes Draft Revision; Will Seek Service Pay Raise

President Johnson says he will shortly recommend to Congress a pay increase for members of the armed forces.

The statement was made in a message to Congress which also called for revamping of the Selective Service system to draft 19 year olds first and tighten college deferments.

The President said the armed forces will continue to rely on those who volunteer to serve. He said improving the quality of service life and increasing the rewards for service itself encourages volunteering. It was in this connection he told of the forthcoming pay increase recommendation.

The Chief Executive also noted such career inducements as the military medicare program, the cold war GI bill and the Vietnam Conflict Servicemen and Veterans Act of 1967.

"I have asked the Secretary of Defense to submit to me this year a comprehensive study of military compensation and retirement system," he said.

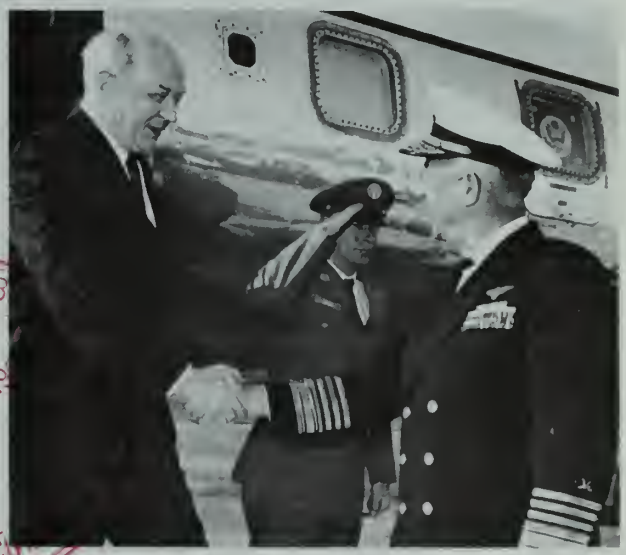
Draft Revision Proposal

President Johnson's proposals on the Selective Service System included:

- Extension of the Selective Service four years past its June 30 expiration date.
- Reversal of induction order, drafting 19-year-olds first.
- Tightening of policies for deferment of college undergraduates with no deferment for graduate work except in medical and dental schools.

The President said he had directed the Secretary of Defense and the Selective Service Director to develop a Fair and Impartial Random (FAIR) system to become fully operational before Jan. 1, 1969. The FAIR system would give physical and mental examinations to 18 year olds, place eligibles into a selection pool at 19 and then determine order of call.

President Johnson also instructed Secretary McNamara, Gen. Hershey and the Bureau of the Budget director to review recommendations made earlier by the National Advisory Commission for a reconstructed Selective Service System.



SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS—The Honorable Dean Rusk, U.S. Secretary of State, is welcomed to Norfolk, Va., by Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command. Secretary Rusk visited Adm. Moorer's headquarters to receive briefings on operations of the unified command, part of a continuing series of visits he is making to top U.S. military commands.

Overseas Deposits Program Nears $50 Million Mark

The new 10 percent interest bearing Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program has climbed to 82,388 accounts with $49,147,553 deposited as of Jan. 31.

Deposits in January alone amounted to $13,302,141 and represented 14,071 new accounts.

DOD officials hailed the five-month old program as not only a meaningful savings program but that it also helps to redress the "gold flow" drain.

The old Soldier's, Sailor's and Airman's Deposit program was at the $18 million mark when it began to phase out and reached only about $60 million several years ago.

Statistics show that the average depositor has $500 credited to his account.

In the Vietnam area alone, there are 26,444 accounts with $14,241,531 in deposits.

Washington Memos

ARMED FORCES INSURANCE legislation introduced in late February by Rep. Richard L. Ottinger, D.-N.Y., would increase life insurance coverage of servicemen from $10,000 to $25,000. Rep. Ottinger terms it a conservative proposal since the $10,000 insurance level established in 1917 would adjust to today's living index at $25,000.

ARMY ENLISTED promotions continue on upswing, with March's 107,901 authorization the second largest since Korean War and more than 17,000 higher than preceding month. Post-Korean War peak was reached in January when 116,356 promotions were authorized to grades E-4 through E-9. Most substantial gain for March is noted in the E-5 authorization for 36,199, more than double February's 17,410. March's quota, by grade, is 192 E-9s; 630 E-8s; 1,722 E-7s; 4,636 E-6s; and 64,522 E-4s.

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION has been awarded to U.S.S. Coral Sea and Attack Carrier Air Wing Two for "outstanding performance in combat," by the Secretary of the Navy.

REAR ADMIRAL MASON B. Freeman has assumed command of Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet. Adm. Freeman relieved RAdm. Walter H. Baumberger, who has served as Cruiser-Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet Commander since May 1965. Adm. Freeman's last duty station was Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Education and Training.

AMERICAN MILITARY POLICE are conducting a training program for Vietnamese National Policemen at Di An, RVN. Military police of the 1st MP Co., 1st Infantry Division, have been teaching American techniques and methods to local policemen from Lai Thieu, Di An and Tu Duc districts.

FIRST ALL-NAVY class for sentry dogs and handlers has graduated from eight-week Sentry Dog Training School, Lackland AFB, Tex. Lackland AFB is responsible for all military sentry dog training conducted in U.S.

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION of United States has presented Citations of Merit to 26 Air National Guard squadrons "for contributions to worldwide military airlift operations." Squadron representatives received a citation from Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, D.-S.C., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

THREE NAVAL ATLANTIC Fleet squadrons have been named winners of Arnold Jay Isbell trophy by Chief of Naval Operations. Isbell trophy is awarded annually to squadrons showing highest degree of antisubmarine warfare excellence. Award winners were Antisubmarine Squadron 28, and Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 5, both based at Quonset Point, R.I., and Patrol Squadron 21, stationed at Brunswick, Maine.

PERSONNEL SCHEDULED FOR assignment to Homestead AFB, Fla., are advised not to move families before housing is obtained. Officials there report transient quarters extremely limited both on and off base.

SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY Organization representatives met at Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii, last month to introduce logistics planning for computer control of transportation. Developed at meeting were both air and seas transportation tables for SEATO force deployments adaptable to computer programming. Tables will be introduced at a future SEATO conference for final approval by SEATO council.

U.S. NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC Office has established a branch in Saigon, RVN. Primary mission is to provide advanced navigational maps, charts and publications to Fleet Naval activities and Marine Corps units operating in that area.

FIRST ARMY NURSE Corps officer to attend Command and General Staff College course will be Maj. Doris Sue Frazier, administrative resident in hospital administration, William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, Tex.

SOLDIERS HOME IN Washington, D.C., will have two eight-story wings added to Sheridan Building. A $3.3 million firm, fixed-price contract is being awarded to Marando, Inc., Washington, by the Engineer District, Baltimore, Md.

FORT HUACHUCA MARKED its 90th anniversary March 3 as oldest active Army post in Arizona. Established in 1877 as one of a chain of 53 forts and garrisons guarding frontier in Arizona, fort's original mission was to protect settlers and keep Indian tribes under control. A $300 million investment today, fort is home of Army's Electronic Proving Ground.

NEW RUGGED FIELD anesthesia machine, which can be delivered by air drop and which is lightweight enough for hand-carrying, is being used by Army surgical hospitals in Vietnam. Units provide capability to select any anesthetic agent now available to fit specific needs of each patient and are also designed to incorporate expected future improvements.

EVALUATION OF WAYS to convert excess Minuteman I Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles for use as space launch vehicles is currently underway at Air Force Systems Command's Space Systems Division, Los Angeles. Five-month design engineering study phase to determine economy, reliability and mission flexibility is scheduled to be completed in May.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by Press Division Armed Forces News Bureau, 1117 No. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Asst. Sec. Charles Outlines AF Trends for Next Decade

Little change in Air Force missions and responsibilities is expected during the next decade, but there will be a shift in emphasis from large numbers of tactical aircraft to an aircraft-missile mix, according to Robert H. Charles, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations and Logistics.

Charles said the major task facing the Air Force and other elements of U.S. armed forces is the deterrence of general nuclear war. This long-range objective can better be accomplished through a mixed force of missiles and bombers "than either missiles alone or bombers alone," he said.

Speaking before a civic organization at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., Charles said that "10 years ago, we depended for deterrence and war-winning ability on numbers and tonnages, or megatonnages—in a sense on brute power—as the situation then required. Ten years from now, we will rely more heavily on precision and agility—on exact control of aircraft and missiles, and warheads carefully tailored to target requirements."

The Assistant Secretary said the balance between bombers and missiles will depend on what the Russians do. "Unless they greatly improve their bomber defenses, our B-52's, and the FB-111's which will join SAC before long, will perform well against it for the next 10 years."

However, should the Russians upgrade their bomber defense system, "we may need a new advanced bomber; and in order to hedge our bets against this possibility, we are proceeding with development work on certain long-lead-time items, such as the engine and avionics, which pace the development and deployment of the complete system," Charles said.

Medicare Proposals Include Veterans Pension Increase

A 5.4 percent increase in pensions for more than 1.4 million disabled veterans, widows and dependents is part of the President's legislative recommendation to extend medicare to the totally disabled.

Other points were:

- Medicare extension to 1.3 million permanently disabled Americans under 65.
- 20 percent increase in Social Security benefits with a 59 percent increase for those now receiving the lowest payments.
- Establishment of minimum level of payments for those on public assistance and welfare.

WAREHOUSE INSPECTION—Gen. Paul L. Freeman Jr., (2nd from left) commanding general, U.S. Continental Army Command, discusses small items operations at a warehouse at the Cam Ranh Bay Depot in Vietnam. Accompanying Gen. Freeman are Brig. Gen. Mahlon E. Gates, (center) commanding general, 1st Logistical Command's Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, and Col. N. A. Gage, (right) depot commander.

Whiteman AFB Receives Minuteman II ICBM Squadron

Whiteman AFB, Mo., has been added to the list of Air Force installations equipped with advanced Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM).

The first squadron of 50 Minuteman II missiles has been accepted by the Air Force to replace Minuteman I missiles at Whiteman.

Completion of the squadron at Whiteman AFB brings the Air Force Minuteman II inventory to 200, and reduces the number of Minuteman Is to 750.

Ultimately, 1,000 Minuteman II and advanced Minuteman III missiles will be in the ICBM inventory.

Minuteman IIs are also at Malmstrom AFB, Mont., and Grand Forks AFB, N.D. Other bases scheduled to receive the Minuteman II are Ellsworth AFB, S.D.; Minot AFB, N.D., and Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyo.

Crews are trained in Minuteman launch procedures at Vandenburg AFB, Calif.

Minuteman II has an improved second-stage engine with greater thrust, resulting in increased range and payload. Minuteman III will have added improvements.

The ICBM force is assigned to the Strategic Air Command.

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Contamination-Proof Inflated Field Shelter Under Army Development

A field shelter allowing personnel to work in contaminated areas without individual protective equipment is being developed at Army's Edgewood Arsenal, Md.

The air-inflated, self supporting shelter is designed for protection against all types of chemical and biological agents. It is scheduled for field use in 1969.

Each shelter can house 10 men, who may work without the usual protective masks, hoods, and gloves. It takes about 20 minutes to set up the shelter, and two or more may be connected for greater capacity.

Sec. Vance Cites Reserves For Valuable Assistance

Deputy Defense Secretary Vance has cited reserve components of all three military departments for giving valuable assistance at a time when nearly a half million men were being deployed in Southeast Asia.

In a memorandum to the Secretaries of the three military departments, Mr. Vance said this could be attributed to the organization of reserve forces as a ready force in being.

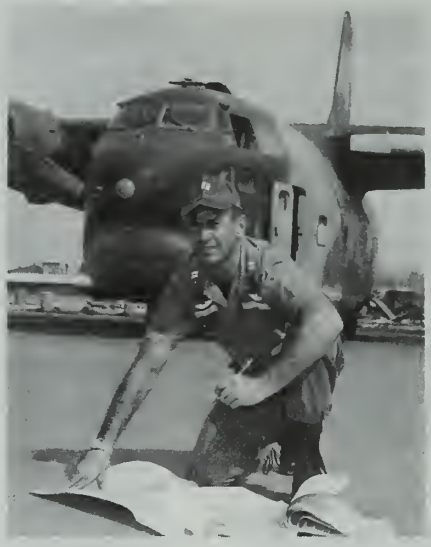
"They shall always be needed as an integral part of our military posture," he said of the reserve forces.

Board of Advisors Named For Naval War College

Navy Secretary Nitze has announced the formation of a 12-man board of advisors to the Naval War College at Newport, R.I.

Founded in 1884, the war college is the Navy's oldest advanced educational institution and provides mid-career officers advanced education in the science of naval warfare and related subjects.

The board members will examine broad policies relating to the college's educational program.



SILVER STAR WINNER — Capt. Leonard J. Pochurek, USAF, kneels in front of his specially-equipped C-123 aerial spray aircraft to plot the course for the day's mission. Capt. Pochurek recently received the Silver Star medal at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam.

Transportable Pharmacy Being Developed for Army

A complete, transportable pharmacy that takes 30 minutes to set up and to operate in climates ranging from frigid arctic wastes to steaming jungles, is scheduled for delivery to the Army in the spring of 1968.

Army has awarded a $280,000 10-month contract to North American Aviation's Space and Information Systems Division. Work by the division's life sciences operations will be to develop a prototype for Army's MUST (Medical Unit Self-Contained Transportable) hospital.

The pharmacy will be a collapsible, medium-size shelter with stock and storage facilities for 400-500 different pharmaceuticals; a water-purification unit; a refrigerator; and a sink.

It will be transportable by ground, water or air means, over a wide variety of terrain. It can operate in temperatures ranging from minus-65-degrees Fahrenheit to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Air Force Gets Funds For 841 Housing Units

The Department of Defense has released $14.2 million to the Air Force for construction of 841 family housing units at seven stateside bases.

Units to be constructed include: Cannon AFB, N.M., 150 units; Eglin AFB, Fla., 300; Ent AFB, Colo., 40; Keesler AFB, Miss., 100; Langley AFB, Va., 100; Nellis AFB, Nev., 1; and Scott AFB, Ill., 150.

Major commands will advertise for bids and subsequently award construction contracts.

Navy Seeks Underwater Acoustic Imaging System

Navy is supporting development of a practical underwater acoustic imaging system that uses sound instead of light to transmit a picture of an underwater object.

Officials said systems developed previously proved complicated for operational use.

The Office of Naval Research is supporting two new systems under development by private industry.

Litton Systems is attempting to convert the acoustic signal into a standard television signal that is fed directly to a television monitor for viewing. Lockheed is developing a system that uses a very simple solid state signal processing method.

Air Guardsmen Are Lauded For Relocation Efforts

Gen. David A. Burchinal has commended Air National Guardsmen from 13 states for performance in relocation of communications and electronic equipment from France.

In a letter to Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson, USAF, Chief, National Guard Bureau, Gen. Burchinal said the nearly 400 Guardsmen played a "vital role" in Operation Fast Race.

The Deputy Commander in Chief, EUCOM, said: "Especially noteworthy was the excellent teamwork exhibited by ANG units which proved essential to the timely completion of assigned USAF tasks."

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.